

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

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APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

S/PRS - MR. BRAY (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

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O 301833Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

UNCLAS STATE 149253

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 30,
1973.

QUOTE: MR. BRAY: I HAD A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT
TO ANOTHER STORY OVER THE WEEKEND WHICH I MIGHT BRIEFLY
DEAL WITH, AND THOSE WERE THE NEWS STORIES ON SATURDAY AND
SUNDAY WHICH HAD REFERENCE TO AMBASSADOR TASCA AND HIS
VIEWS IN ATHENS. I MIGHT SIMPLY NOTE FOR YOU THAT ON
SATURDAY THE EMBASSY ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH SAID -- AND I
QUOTE -- "WITH RESPECT TO PRESS COMMENTS ON U.S.-GREEK
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RELATIONS, AN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE U.S. POLICY

OF NON-INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES HAS BEEN SET FORTH ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, INCLUDING MOST RECENTLY THE STATEMENT DISTRIBUTED BY THE EMBASSY ON JULY 26 WHICH IS AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS. AS A DEPARTMENT OF STATE SPOKESMAN SAID YESTERDAY IN WASHINGTON, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NOT CHANGED ITS POLICY TOWARDS GREECE. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN FAVOR OF A RETURN TO PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT IN GREECE AND HAS SAID SO PUBLICLY."

ONE OR TWO OF YOU ASKED ON SATURDAY ABOUT VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE STORY, I THINK PARTICULARLY IN THE WASHINGTON POST, PARTICULARLY WITH REFERENCE TO AN ALLEGED RECENT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND MR. KANELLOPOULOS, FORMER PRIME MINISTER. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE EMBASSY SAID OVER THE WEEKEND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO SUCH CONTACT. THERE WAS ALSO REFERENCE TO A CALL BY AMBASSADOR TASCA ON THE PRESENT PRIME MINISTER. THERE WAS SUCH A CALL ABOUT A WEEK AGO BY THE AMBASSADOR WHO WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THIS GOVERNMENT TO SEE THE PRIME MINISTER. NOW, WITHOUT GETTING INTO THE DETAILS OF THAT CONVERSATION, I WILL SAY THAT THE POINTS AMBASSADOR TASCA MADE ON OUR BEHALF WERE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT HAS BEEN OUR POLICY ALL ALONG WITH RESPECT TO GREECE.

TO THAT I SHOULD PROBABLY ADD THAT I HAVE NO IMMEDIATE COMMENT, IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR QUESTIONS, ON THE PLEBISCITE CONDUCTED YESTERDAY. END QUOTE. ROGERS

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